

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09225 171432Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 171400Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6534

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9225

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS YS

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF PDRY AMERICAN PRISONERS

REF: STATE 221166

1. IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT REFTTEL, I TRIED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MARWAN TO CONVEY PRESIDENT FORD'S AND YOUR PERSONAL GRATITUDE TO PRESIDENT SADAT FOR GOE'S ATCTION IN SECURING THE RELEASE OF TORHAN AND KOPP. I HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED USG'S THANKS. UNFORTUNATELY, I JUST MISSED MARWAN, WHO LEFT FOR PARIS, LONDON AND NEW YORK THIS MORNING.

2. I THEREFORE ARRANGED TO SEND PRESIDENT FORD'S AND YOUR THANKS TO PRESIDENT SADAT THROUGH PRESIDENCY OFFICE DIRECTOR HASSAN KAMAL. SUBSEQUENTLY, I RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM MARWAN THAT ANY MATTERS HAVING TO DO WITH TORHAN AND KOPP SHOULD, IN HIS ABSENCE, BE HANDLED WITH HIS DEPUTY, HAMDI TAHRI. I THEREUPON CALLED TAHRI AND ALSO ASKED HIM TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SADAT. I WILL CONVEY YOUR THANKS TO MARWAN WHEN I NEXT SEE HIM. FOR REASON GIVEN IN ANOTHER TELEGRAM, I DO NOT THINK IT DESIRABLE TO THANK FAHMY. AT THE MOMENT I AM NOT EVEN SURE HE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THIS MATTER.

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3. RE CAIRO'S 9198, MARWAN DID NOT CALL BACK LAST

NIGHT. THIS MORNING, HOWEVER, HE SENT ME A MESSAGE SAYING HE HAD AGAIN DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT SADAT THE MATTER OF PUBLICITY ABOUT TORHAN AND KOPP'S RELEASE. SADAT STILL WANTS NO RPT NO GOE OR USG OFFICIAL STATEMENT. IF TORHAN AND KOPP SPEAK TO THE PRESS, THIS IS THEIR BUSINESS AND THE PRESIDENT HAS NO RPT NO OBJECTION IF THEY EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION FOR GOE'S EFFORT IN THEIR BEHALF.

4. THIS OBVIOUSLY LEAVES US IN A SOMEWHAT AWKWARD POSITION. IF THE NEWS BREAKS THROUGH EITHER TORHAN, KOPP OR THEIR FAMILIES, AS IT SURELY WILL IN NEXT FEW DAYS, I SEE NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT CONFIRM THIS IF ASKED. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD DOWNPLAY THE EGYPTIAN ROLE THEREIN. IT IS A SHAME, SINCE SADAT IS MISSING WHAT COULD BE POSITIVE PUBLICITY IN THE AMERICAN PRESS.
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